



**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**for Commercial Guided Rafting Trip Proposal**  
**DOI-BLM-LLAK01000-2009-0019-DNA**  
**Preparing Office: Arctic Field Office**

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Project Title/Type of Action: **Commercial Guided Recreational Rafting Trips**

Serial/Lease/Case File Number: **Serial #FF095144**

Applicant: **Jim Campbell & Carol Kasza dba Arctic Treks**

Address: **P.O. Box 73452**  
**Fairbanks, Alaska 99707**

Prepared By: **Donna L Wixon**  
**Natural Resource Specialist**

Date: **May 28, 2009**

### Legal Land Description

#### Nigu Trail

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
32 N	12 E	KM	3, 4
33 N	12 E	KM	29, 30, 32
33 N	11 E	KM	5, 6, 8, 14-17, 23, 24
34 N	11 E	KM	7, 17-20, 29,30,32,33
12 S	19 W	UM	5-8, 17-19, 29, 30
11 S	19 W	UM	6, 7, 18, 19, 29-32
11 S	20 W	UM	1
10 S	20 W	UM	36
10 S	19 W	UM	1, 2, 11, 14, 15, 20-22, 30, 31
9 S	19 W	UM	1, 12, 13,2425,36
9 S	18 W	UM	19, 30, 31
8 S	18 W	UM	3,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,32
7 S	18 W	UM	2,11,14,15,21,22,27,28,33,34
6 S	18 W	UM	24-26, 35, 36
6 S	17 W	UM	17-20

#### Alternative Kokolik River

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
2 S	41 W	UM	13, 14, 22-24
2 S	40 W	UM	3-5, 7-9, 17-19 BLMD
1 S	39 W	UM	5-7, 18
1 N	39 W	UM	1, 2, 11, 14, 23-25, 35, 36
2 N	39 W	UM	7-11, 13-18, 24, 25, 36
2 N	38 W	UM	19
2 N	40 W	UM	1, 2, 11-13
3 N	40 W	UM	6-89, 15, 16,21,22,26,27,34,35
3 N	41 W	UM	1

Alternative Utukok River

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
7 S	39 W	UM	3, 10-13
6 S	39 W	UM	4, 5,8,9,16,21,28,33,34
5 S	39 W	UM	25, 26, 32-35
5 S	38 W	UM	3, 4, 8, 9, 17-20, 30
4 S	37 W	UM	1, 3-5, 8, 17, 20, 29-31
3 S	37 W	UM	33-36
4 S	36 W	UM	6
3 S	36 W	UM	3,4,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,31-33
2 S	36 W	UM	25-27, 33-36
2 S	35 W	UM	25-30, 32-36
2 S	34 W	UM	13, 14, 22, 23, 27-31
2 S	33 W	UM	1, 2, 10, 11, 14-19, 21, 22
1 S	33 W	UM	14, 23, 25,26,35,36

Utukok River Preferred Route

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
6 N	39 W	UM	11-14
6 N	38 W	UM	17, 18, 20-27, 36
6 N	37 W	UM	30, 31
5 N	37 W	UM	3-6, 9-11, 13, 14, 24-26, 36
5 N	36 W	UM	19, 30-33
4 N	37 W	UM	1, 2, 12, 25
4 N	36 W	UM	7, 8,19,30,31
3 N	36 W	UM	5, 6, 8-11, 13-16, 23, 24
3 N	35 W	UM	10, 11, 13-21
3 N	34 W	UM	15-18, 21-23, 25, 26, 36
3 N	33 W	UM	31
2 N	33 W	UM	5, 6, 8,17,20,21,28,29,32
1 N	33 W	UM	5, 8,17,19,20,28,29,33
1 S	34 W	UM	1,2,12
1 S	33 W	UM	14, 23, 25,26,35,36

**DOI-BLM-LLAK01000-2009-0019-DNA**

**Worksheet**

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

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**A. BLM Office:** Arctic Field Office

**Case File Number:** FF095144

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Issuance of Special Recreation Permit under 43 CFR 2930

**Location of Proposed Action:** Nigu, Colville, Kokolik & Utukok Rivers

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

The Arctic Field BLM Office in Fairbanks is proposing to authorize an application for a Special Recreation Application on federal lands. The proposed action would authorize a Special Recreation Authorization to Arctic Treks to conduct commercial rafting trips on the Utukok, Kokuk, Nigu, Etivlik and Colville Rivers. The trips would be similar in nature to those permitted last summer by BLM. The trips would take place between the dates of June 5 and August 31, 2009. One trip would be a rafting trip on either the Utukok or Kokolik River. The other trip would be a rafting trip on the Nigu, into the Etivlik, to its junction with the Colville. Arctic Treks are requesting authorizations for 4 routes, 2 being backup routes if the preferred routes do not work out. They anticipate having 4 to 12 people per trip. The groups will fly by charter air service and be dropped off and picked up on gravel bars.

Arctic Trek will be practicing self-contained, expedition style camping and implement Leave No Trace practices. They will carry out all trip garbage. Arctic Trek will not use fuel or gear caches. Their guides have many years of experience guiding remote wilderness trips in the Arctic and have received safety training.

**Applicant:**

Jim Campbell & Carol Kasza dba Arctic Treks, P.O. Box 73452, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

**B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans**

Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 2/5/1990  
Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP) approved July 2008  
Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991  
Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989  
Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National  
Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983

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The National Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976**C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Environmental Assessment AK-023-2007-014 and the associated FONSI adequately cover all environmental issues associated with the special recreation authorization for the proposed Commercial Guided Recreational Rafting Trips.

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-LLAKF01000-2009-0017EA (2009-17EA) and the associated FONSI adequately cover all environmental issues associated with special recreation authorizations on the Utukok and Kokolik Rivers.

Environmental Assessment AK-023-08-01 and the associated FONSI adequately cover all environmental issues associated with the use of the Colville River.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed commercial guided recreational rafting trip is the same action as analyzed in EA AK-023-2007-14. The applicant has proposed to conduct the same trips as the last 2 years which were analyzed in the noted EA. Also, the current proposed action is the type of action and activity on the Utukok and Koklik Rivers as the proposed action that was analyzed in 2009-17EA. The proposed action along the Colville River is the same type of action as analyzed in EA AK-023-08-01.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The range of alternatives analyzed in AK-023-2007-014, AK-023-08-01 and 2009-17EA are the same as the range of alternatives that would be analyzed for the proposed action.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, Rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The existing analysis is adequate for this proposal. The 2009-017EA was completed May 22, 2009 and there is no new information. AK-023-2007-014 was completed June 2007 and Ak-02-08-01 was completed July 2008.

**4. Are the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The direct, indirect and site-specific impacts identified in AK-023-2007-014 are the same as would be anticipated for the proposed action because it is the same proposal that would be evaluated. The Interdisciplinary Team that reviewed the proposal for the EA also reviewed the current proposal. The direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action are similar to those evaluated in the 2009-17EA and AK-023-08-01. The proposed action of the 2009-17EA evaluated use of the Utukok and Kokolik Rivers, however the timing of use will vary from the proposed action currently being evaluated.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action has been announced on the BLM Arctic Field Office website NEPA register, as was the 2009-17EA. The complete AK-023-08-01 document is posted on the BLM Arctic Field Office website.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Donna Wixon	Natural Resource Specialist	Project Lead
Susan Flora	Environmental Scientist	Hazardous Material
Dave Yokel	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Matthew Whitman	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Richard Kemnitz	Hydrologist	Hydrology
Mike Kunz	Archeologist	Archeology
Stacie McIntosh	Anthropologist	Subsistence
Debbie Nigro	Wildlife Biologist	Avian
Roger Sayre	Planning & Environ Coord	NEPA

Note: Refer to the EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original

**F. ANILCA Requirements**

## Section 810 Subsistence Evaluation

This proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and no reasonably foreseeable eliminations on harvester access will result from the proposed action (see ANILCA section 810 Evaluation within this case file dated 5/18/2009).

## G. Assessment of Archaeological & Historic Resources

Specific stipulations for permitted activities in the NPR-A address cultural resources that may be encountered by the permittee operating under the conditions of the permit. These stipulations are attached to the permit. Proposed action may proceed (See Assessment within this case file dated 5/22/2009).

## H. Mitigation Measures:

In addition to the terms included on the back of the special recreation permit, the attached stipulations “Special Recreation Permit Stipulations – Arctic Treks 2009” and “Required Conduct Near Possible Nests of Raptors (Eagles, Hawks and Falcons) are applicable.

## CONCLUSION

☐ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked

/s/ Donna Wixon

Donna Wixon, Project Lead, Arctic Field Office

/s/ Roger Sayre

Roger Sayre, NEPA Coordinator, Arctic Field Office

/s/ Stacie McIntosh (for Lon Kelly)

Lon Kelly, Manager, Arctic Field Office

5/28/2009

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.